Mayor wants more special police, says city director

Does Carbondale Mayor Fred Mancuso intend to hire three more special policemen? That question was posed to city managing director Joseph Masco by city Councilwoman Charlotte Moro at Monday's meeting of Carbondale City Council, and comments on the subject accounted for much of the meeting's discussion.

To Mrs. Moro's query, Masco replied, "Yes, the mayor is considering hiring specials to increase the list of available specials." Mrs. Moro countered that this hiring wouldn't improve the current police manpower shortage since the city now has six to seven special officers, and pointed out that they cannot work more than 35 hours per week.

Discussion also revealed that specials must undergo 480 hours of law enforcement instruction, mandated by Act 120, which costs the city $1,600 per trainee. After a month's training, specials are empowered to make arrests and issue warrants. They are paid $4.50 per hour and receive no benefits. In the 1982 budget, Council allocated $12,000 to pay wages to specials, but $30,000 was spent for their use.

As for hiring regular police officers, Masco stated that "No one on the list of people who took the Civil Service test for police officers has the required 480 hours of training."

In related discussion, Council resolved to place $6,000 in the 1983 police budget for maintenance and fuel for police vehicles.

Concerning the Dundaft Street Viaduct demolition, Masco stated that bids will be advertised in December for a contractor to do the bridge demolition and construction of roads around the area. "The job will begin in spring, possibly in April, and according to a Public Utility Commission order, the work must be completed by December 1984." However, the NEWS was told by state Department of Transportation officials that the job must be completed by August 1984.

In a related matter, Council will look into the cost of purchasing land on the city's West Side behind the Caruso Club for use as a parking lot for residents in the Hosptal Street area who will have little parking space once the viaduct project is completed.

The tentative budget for 1983, formulated by managing director Masco, was delivered to council Friday evening. At Monday's meeting, little was said about the financial outline for the coming year except that the required public meeting will be conducted prior to the budget's final adoption by the end of December, in order to give residents the opportunity to express their opinions on the financial plan.

Following Monday's meeting, city clerk Mary Milligan reviewed budget particulars with the NEWS, and noted that it calls for $1,021,645 in revenues to be raised by assessing city property owners 37 mills in taxes. Milligan added, the 1982 budget, and the mills, "This is all tentative, however, council works on it. This tentative plan calls for a three mill sinking fund, a three mill recreational fund and 41 mills in real estate taxes," Ms. Milligan told the NEWS.

Revenues anticipated in the tentative budget include: $460,000 in property taxes; $370,000 in wage taxes; $12,000 in parking tickets; $12,500 in occupancy taxes; $300,000 in delinquent real estate taxes; $7,000 in real estate transfer taxes; $8,500 from state liquor licenses; $10,000 in miscellaneous fees; $12,000 in Public Utility Commission fees; and $165,000 in federal revenue sharing funds, to be used for police salaries.

Major expenditures include: administrative salaries, $77,775, for the mayor, city manager, council, city clerk and city solicitor; fire department, $154,700, for fire chief and drivers' salaries and vehicle maintenance and maintenance; $16,000, for fire house; street department, $139,000, for salaries and vehicle maintenance; financial department, $55,100, for salaries and building maintenance; police $158,500 for salaries, insurance, uniforms and vehicle maintenance; garbage hauling, $123,000, Freddy's Refuse, Thompson, PA; parking meter department, $14,500, for salaries, hospitalization and equipment repairs; and recreational department, $49,600, for salaries, hospitalization and maintenance of parks.

The city is also responsible for the payment of $15,000 for police pensions; $42,000 for social security, unemployment, employee pensions. The Department of Public Works will receive $95,000 in liquid fuels monies for plowing of snow and road paving.